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95-260

August 3, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PLANNING DOLLARS GO TO LIBRARY, EQUIPMENT

CHARLESTON -- With planning funds, Eastern Illinois University, in the 1995 fiscal year that ended June 30, purchased library books and materials to meet the needs of students and faculty, replaced obsolete instructional equipment and supplied 60 faculty and staff with computers.

Support for Booth Library and equipment to support the university's undergraduate and graduate programs topped this year's "planning initiatives," identified through the university's strategic planning process and ranked by the Council on University Planning and Budget (CUPB).

Library Services Dean Allen Lanham said Booth Library, ranked the university's number one priority by the CUPB, received \$85,000 from FY95 planning funds to increase the book and materials budget. All discipline accounts were increased by more than 7 percent, which allowed some areas to deflect this year's inflation growth in journals and standing orders, resulting in fewer cancellations.

Lanham said the library also set aside monies for commercial vendors who can provide faculty and staff direct access to journal articles not available on

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campus, reducing the reliance on interlibrary loan.

To address the historical lack of materials available for Eastern's teacher education programs in all disciplines, Lanham said a new account was established to purchase curriculum materials and K-12 textbooks. "This has significantly strengthened the current collection used so heavily by over one-third of the student population," he said.

Additional funds were used to increase all interdisciplinary accounts to permit their continued development.

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs funded 57 pieces of new equipment for Booth Library and Media Services. Twenty-four VHS recorders, 12 television monitors, four overhead projectors, a notebook computer and a scanner are among the new items.

"While we are making marginal progress, we still continue to face the critical issue of technology obsolescence in many of our instructional laboratories, not to mention faculty and academic support offices. Because there have not been enough computers to go around, faculty, in particular, have had difficulty keeping pace with the technological knowledge of their students and haven't been able to adequately prepare for their teaching and research activities," said Terry Weidner, acting provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Weidner said more than \$300,000 in planning funds was spent on academic equipment in FY95.

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The College of Arts and Humanities spent its entire equipment allocation on faculty computers, still leaving more than half of the college's 200 faculty without computers.

The Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences purchased faculty computers, equipment for instructional laboratories and various items for academic administrative offices that provide direct services to students or prepare instructional materials for faculty.

The College of Education and Professional Studies also bought computers and related equipment for faculty and staff and classroom/laboratory use.

The College of Sciences used its equipment allocation to purchase a variety of laboratory equipment -- microscopes, test kits, a telescope, computers and related items.

In the area of disability services, new equipment will make it possible for students to work more independently than ever before.

A screen enlargement computer package will provide computer access campus-wide for students with visual impairments, blindness and severe types of learning disabilities. A new braille printer will improve the quality of materials provided to students, faculty and staff. An Arkenstone optical scanner, an electronic reading machine located in the library, will allow users to do their own reading/recording.

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## PLANNING FUNDS

Other academic areas that have had minimal equipment budgets in past years were able to replace obsolete equipment and purchase state-of-the-art equipment.

Planning funds also supported North Central Association of Colleges and Schools reaccreditation activities; minority development programs, such as a college-bound program for minority high school students; and the university's alumni publication.

Support for Booth Library and academic equipment remain at the top of CUPB's planning initiatives list for FY96, which began July 1.